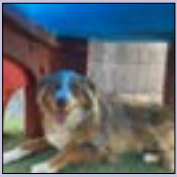


Ponte Vedra NewsLine

OCTOBER 2022 Volume 9 Issue 10

Ponte Vedra, Palm Valley, Nocatee and South Ponte Vedra Beach

A Florida NewsLine Publication



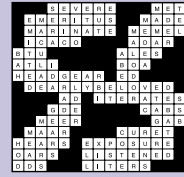
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Photo courtesy Lisa Farese

Kindergarten families at Ocean Palms Elementary joined parents and administrators for the annual Tea and Tissues breakfast.

There's no crying in kindergarten!

By Lisa Farese
mail@floridanewsline.com

As the school year moved into full swing, kindergarten parents were welcomed to Ocean Palms Elementary School for its annual Tea and Tissues event on Aug. 22. Families joined administrators, PTO members and other parents for breakfast, a principal's chat, and camaraderie.

From information about the daily schedule, to new safety measures, parents learned about the school, asked questions and became part of the school community — setting parents and students alike up for an exciting school year.

Getting in the Swing of Things: PXG Women's Match Play Championship returns

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps
mail@floridanewsline.com

Sam Brimhall first became interested in golf at nine years old when her older sister was on the high school golf team.

"The golf swing came 'natural' to me, and I became decent at the game fairly quickly," said Brimhall. "Around age 10, I started playing in tournaments and from there, golf became my thing."

Brimhall went on to play golf at Seminole State College under Coach Christa Teno. After two years of eligibility at the junior college level, she transferred to Jacksonville University to play her two final years under Coach Kathryn Dougan.

Last year, Brimhall, 23, interned as a sponsorship coordinator and general tournament support staff member for the very first PXG Women's Match Play Championship at World Golf Village. She is ready to do it again next month as the tournament returns to St. Johns County for its second year.

Brimhall now works as a brand consultant for CAA Sports in the golf



Photos courtesy Mark Berman
Sofia Garcia at US Women's Open

department, helping clients activate and endorse their brand through relationships with the PGA TOUR and other affiliated golf brands. She credits PXG with helping her to be a professional in the golf business.

"I can't say enough about how this tournament/tour has impacted me. Watch-

ing this tour grow from the ground up has shown me that any dream is possible. It has also shown me that people do care about women's sports," said Brimhall. "We have a long way to go, but I know that more initiatives are taking place to provide women/girls more playing opportunities in all sports."

Last year, Mark Berman, managing partner of MediaShare Consulting Group and in the golf industry for 25 years, created the first ever professional women's golf tournament in St. Johns County and the first in Jacksonville since 1976.

The PXG Women's Match Play Championship, a back-to-back tournament series, will take place Nov. 1 through Nov. 6 under the umbrella of the Women's All Pro Tour. It is one of only three US women's developmental tours for women and the only one which provides a pathway into the Symetra Tour. It is open to all professional players who are not LPGA players.

The event features 84 of the world's best



Photos courtesy Mark Berman

PXG team, including Sam Brimhall (second from the right) and Mark Berman.

PXG cont. on pg. 2

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PXG cont. from pg. 2

non-LPGA players starting in a two-stroke play qualifier from which 64 will advance to the Pod Play Battle Rounds. The winners of each Pod will advance to Sweet 16 of the traditional Match Play Knockout Rounds.

The “Generation W Links to Leadership Summit” will take place on the day off between stroke play and the Battle

Rounds. Generation W is a non-profit located in Jacksonville Beach that is dedicated to lifting up women through leadership development, connection, inspiration and education. The summit is being presented by Baptist Health and Circle K. Investing in Kids (INK!), which raises money for underserved public schools in St. Johns County, is the tournament benefactor and the official charity partner. Last year, INK!

raised more than \$50,000 through the Pro-Am, its biggest single-day fundraiser.

This year’s Pro-Am will be held at the World Golf Village Slammer & Squire course on Monday, Oct. 31. The event is sponsored by Founding Partners Murgado Automotive Bentley & Maserati of Jacksonville, SQAIRZ Golf, Access Golf and Baptist Health.

For Berman, this event is all about creating opportunities for women in golf, in the community and in the golf industry.

“It is not a knock against the guys. It is just how do we create more playing opportunities and eventually earning

opportunities for these young women so that they can get to their next level,” he said.

Pro golfer Sofia Garcia, 24, said she enjoyed her time at PXG last year. She was paired with Dr. Scott Fechter in the INK! Charity Pro Am, and the two struck up a professional relationship with Fechter’s practice, Pain Relief Center, becoming Garcia’s lead sponsor.

“It was just an overall good experience,” said Garcia, who is actively pursuing her dream to be in the LPGA Tour. “It was about more than just golf.”


Garcia, who is from Paraguay and played golf at Texas Tech, said she especially enjoyed the Generation W Leadership Summit and the opportunity to find support and fellowship.

“Golf has shaped me as a person and has shaped my life. I have so many great memories on the golf course and off,” said Garcia, who began playing golf when she was eight years old. “We judge ourselves based on our performances, but we are more than that.”



For more information about tickets, the INK! Charity Pro Am and the Spooktacular Junior Clinic, visit www.PXGWMPC.com. Follow Garcia’s US Women’s Open Journey at www.USGA.org.




Photos courtesy Mark Berman
Sofia Garcia



Smiles by GLENOS & HADGIS ORTHODONTISTS

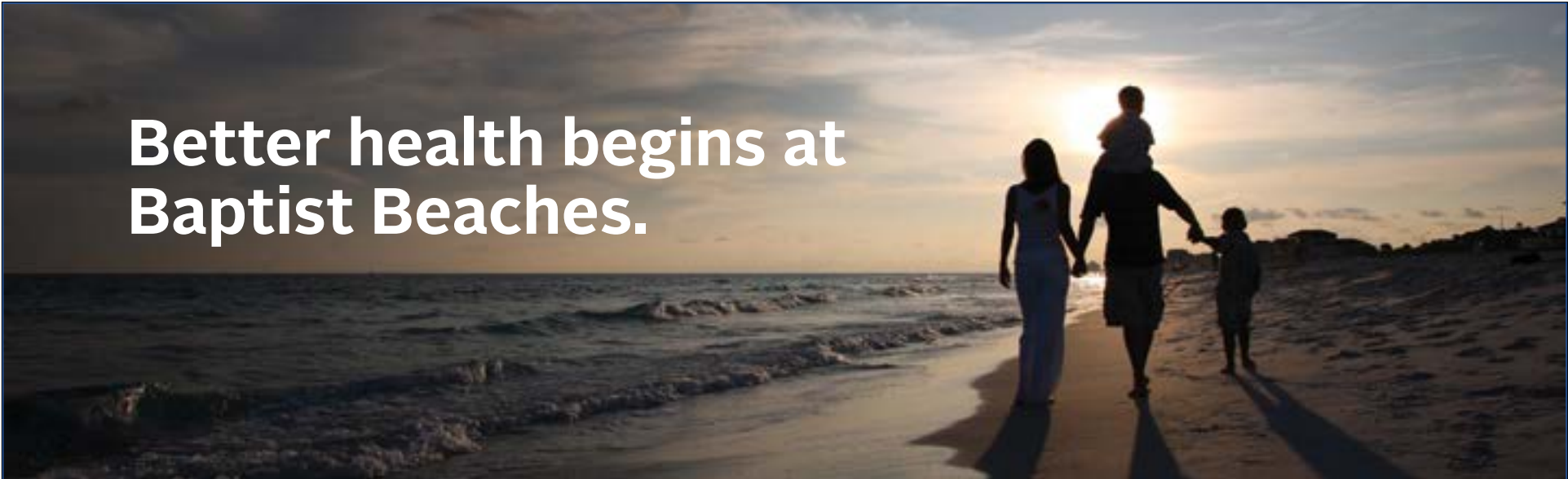


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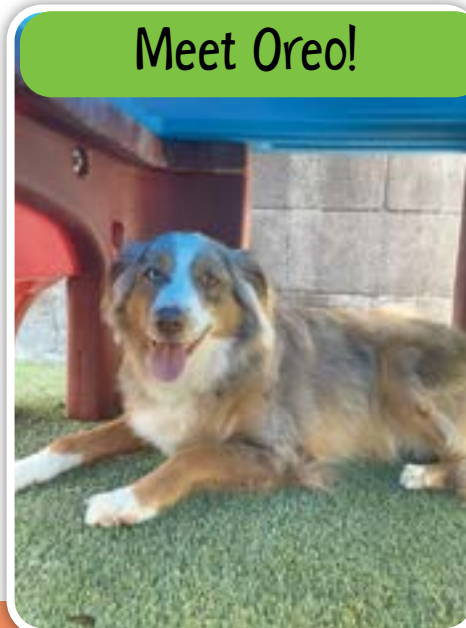
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BFF Best Furry Friend of the month

Breed:
Australian shepherd
Favorite activity:
Going for walks
Favorite treat:
Yak cheese stick
Favorite friends:
Angus and Sherlock, our neighbors' Golden-doodles
How your BFF got his name:
Dark brown and white coat, like a well-known cookie!



Meet Oreo!

Do you have a cute pet? Send us your pet's picture and the answer to the five questions above before the 10th of the month. Also tell us you saw the BFF contest in Ponte Vedra NewsLine. Your pet could be our BFF of the month and appear in Ponte Vedra NewsLine! Email editor@floridanewsline.com to enter your pet.

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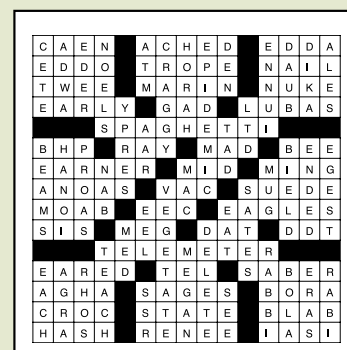
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MYSTERY PHOTO



Can you guess where this is?
Submit your answer to: mail@FloridaNewsLine.com.

Last month's Mystery Photo was the building housing Pusser's and Ruth's Chris on A1A.



Answers
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PG 12



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with St. Johns County Sheriff
Rob Hardwick

Q: Do you have any Halloween safety tips?
A: Yes. First, plan a route in advance and only trick or treat at homes or businesses that you are familiar with. It's best to go while it's still light outside, but definitely stay in well-lit areas and with a group. Establish a curfew and stick to it. Be sure to take your cell phone as it can be used not only for communication, but also to provide a flashlight.

Make sure your child's costume, including masks and wigs, are flame resistant. They should also be light in color and reflective so they are clearly visible to motorists. Avoid costumes that are oversized and high-heeled shoes that can cause a child to trip.

Instruct your child not to eat any treats until an adult can examine them.

If you will be out driving on Halloween, take extra time and watch for children darting in and out from between parked cars. Slow down and pay attention. Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs. Enter and exit driveways and alleys very carefully.



Remember, if you see suspicious activity, call the Sheriff's Office and report it.

Q: What is the Sheriff's Office doing for Halloween?
A: We are hosting the only Haunted House in town, called "Sheriff Hardwick's Haunted Jail," on Oct. 21, 22, 28, and 29 from 6 p.m. – 11p.m. at 4015 Lewis Speedway in St. Augustine. There will be food trucks, photo opportunities and more spooky but safe fun! Tickets are available on Eventbrite at: www.eventbrite.com/e/sheriff-hardwicks-haunted-jail-tickets-416867520977

The Haunted Jail was organized and created by Sheriff's Office employees as a 501.3c fundraiser for the SJSO Special Teams Association Inc. Individual and corporate sponsorships and donations are still being accepted.

Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you with any questions or suggestions about this article?
A: They can email me at sheriff@sjso.org or call me at (904) 824-8304. Also, our website, www.sjso.org has a wealth of resources, from alarm registration to Crime Stoppers to our Neighbors app.



with St. Johns County Property Appraiser
Eddie Creamer

Q: Can you share a schedule update from your office?
A: The TRIM period ended on Sept. 13 and now we move on to the next phase of the tax year. For individuals who have filed a petition with the Value Adjustment Board, their hearings will be scheduled over the next three months. Simultaneously, we will submit the tax roll to the county's tax collector for preparation of the tax bills, which will be mailed out the first week of November. Our office will then move forward to the 2023 tax year.

Q: What does that entail?
A: We will begin adding any newly constructed homes to the tax roll for next year. New homeowners can get an idea of the value of their newly constructed home by visiting our website, www.sjcpa.us. We start the valuation of existing homes in January.

Q: Is there anything homeowners can do now for the next tax year?
A: It's definitely time to start thinking about filing for exemptions — homestead, senior, veterans etc. If you moved into your home in 2022 and qualify for an exemption, you can apply now and we will approve it and then pend it for 2023. This also gives us time to start the process of getting portability from other counties in Florida, if applicable.

Q: Do you have anything else to share?
A: County property appraisers are bound by law to appraise property at just market value. We establish this based on sales from the previous year — and values increased pretty dramatically in 2022 for tax purposes. This is a reflection of 2021 sales. Sales for 2022, which will impact 2023 for tax purposes, show that values have already increased by 18 percent. I anticipate it being more than 30 percent again by the end of the year.

This illustrates the importance of filing for homestead exemption promptly if you qualify. If you moved into your home last year, be sure to apply next year and it will become the base year for your cap. (For homeowners that have homestead exemption on their property, as part of Save Our Homes, each year the assessed value of their home can only increase by the lower of 3 percent or the CPI cost of living index.)

Q: What is the best way for our readers to contact you?
A: Our office is located at 4030 Lewis Speedway Ste. 203, (904) 827-5500. It is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Also, readers can email me at Eddie@sjcpa.us or call me at (904) 827-5500.



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Guest Column

General Election FAQs

By Vicky Oakes, St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections

With a successful 2022 Primary Election officially in the record books, the Supervisor of Elections Office is looking forward to and planning for the November General Election. This is a great time to make sure you are Election Ready and prepared to head to the polls on Nov. 8. It's also a good time for me to answer some frequently asked elections questions:

Is it too late to register for the November 8th General Election?

No! The deadline is Oct. 11, 2022, so you still have time to register to vote or update your address.

What is the easiest way to register to vote?

The State of Florida offers online voter registration, which can be accessed through our website at www.votesjc.gov. Look for the "Register to Vote" quick link on the front page. You will need a Florida Driver License and the last four digits of your social security number to use online registration.

If I don't have a Florida driver license,

can I still register to vote?

Yes. Simply make use of the printable voter registration form available on our website. You can fill out, print, sign, and mail it to us. You can also register to vote at any driver license office or one of your local public libraries, which all have Saturday and evening hours.

If you have questions or need an application mailed to you, please call our office at (904) 823-2238. Mailed applications must be postmarked by Oct. 11, 2022, in order to qualify for the November General Election. Applications turned into the Elections Office, driver license offices, or public libraries must also be submitted by the deadline at close of business day.

If I have moved recently from another county in Florida, do I have to re-register to vote?

No. You will simply need to request an address change with our office.

How can I update my address?

Call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238 or use the online form available on our website. You are required to

provide your name, address, birthdate, and Florida driver license number or last four digits of your social security number to confirm your identity.

Will I receive a new voter card after I register or update my address?

Yes. A new card will be mailed to you that provides your voting districts and Election Day polling location.

Will I receive a sample ballot from the Elections Office?

Yes. Every voter who has not requested a vote-by-mail ballot will receive a sample ballot in the mail. They are scheduled to be mailed in early October; however, they are already available on our website. You can also use "My

Voter Status" on the website to look up your voter record and your sample ballot.

Is the ballot long this year?

Yes. It's only one page, but there is a long list of candidates that includes federal, state, and local candidates as well as many judges. Additionally, there are three constitutional amendments on the ballot and a local sales tax referendum.

For more information about voting in the upcoming Nov. 8 General Election, please see our ad in this newspaper. You can also visit our website at www.votesjc.gov or call the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238 for assistance. I look forward to seeing you at the polls!



with St. Johns County School Board Member Kelly Barrera, District 4

Q: Can you address teacher vacancies in St. Johns County?

A: Several factors have contributed to this, including pay. We also know the last couple of years have been particularly difficult and challenging for teachers. We are dealing with a more than 7 percent growth rate in our county. We have the new BEST standards and associated new curriculum. Also, students have been in and out of school and we need to reteach them information they might have missed. All of this is coupled with a 35 percent reduction of people entering the education field.

We are looking for additional ways to support our teachers and continue to take any responsibilities that we can off their plate. Support organizations such as INK! are also pitching in to help. I've heard about adopt-a-teacher programs in other counties and I want to investigate something like that as a way of letting our teachers know how much they are appreciated. We are also being creative — where they can, principals are taking full time positions and splitting them into two part time positions in an effort to attract educators who might prefer such a position. If you are interested in this, please contact the principal at your local school and let them know.

Q: How have the first several weeks of school been going?

A: I think there has been a lot of positive energy and enthusiasm across the district for a more normalized school year. Students are happy to be back in school.

Q: What can you tell us about the recent Victory with Honor recipients recognized by the school board?

A: Eight St. Johns County coaches were recognized at our mid-September school board meeting with the Jeff Holt Coach of the Year Award for Pursuing Victory With Honor. This award is named for the late Jeff Holt, an incredible educator, coach and dear friend throughout the school district. Mr. Holt was someone who epitomized what Pursuing Victory With Honor stood for and was a leader in the classroom as well as in athletics. He made coaches around him better and helped students capture the life lessons gained from participating in athletics. He was a true mentor to many current and past coaches and administrators. Regardless of the outcome of a game, Jeff Holt always kept his athletes focused on how special it is to be a student-athlete and the positive impact they can have on campus and in the community. Congratulations to the following coaches:

David Frank, Bartram Trail High School cross country/track; Lenny Roger, Creekside High School boys' volleyball; Lou Argitis, Pedro Menendez High School boys' lacrosse; Collin Drafts, Allen D. Nease High School football; Rob Circelli, Ponte Vedra High School boys' and girls' cross country; Shannon Content, St. Augustine High School girls' lacrosse; Casey O'Linn, St. Joseph Academy boys' soccer; and Jay Shepherd, Toco Creek High School girls' soccer.

Q: Do you have anything else to share with District 4?

A: The parents advisory group for our ESE students will hold its first virtual parent meeting on Oct. 4 at 6 p.m. The topic will be "Connect-



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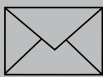
Due to the 2020 Census and Redistricting process, voting districts, precinct lines, and some Election Day polling locations have changed. Visit **VOTESJC.GOV** for more information.



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We are here to serve you. Please visit our office, call or use our online forms and resources to help you prepare for Election Day.

REMEMBER, YOU HAVE 3 WAYS TO VOTE!



VOTE-BY-MAIL

Visit www.votesjc.gov or call (904) 823-2238 by 5 PM on October 29 to request a vote-by-mail ballot.



VOTE EARLY

You can vote in person prior to Election Day by visiting any early voting location from Wednesday, October 26 through Saturday, November 5. Early voting locations will be open from 8 AM to 6 PM daily. Locations are listed below.



ELECTION DAY

To vote on Election Day, you must go to your assigned polling place between the hours of 7 AM and 7 PM on November 8. Signature and photo ID are required to vote in person. For more information, visit www.votesjc.gov

DEADLINE APPROACHING

The last day to register to vote in the 2022 General Election is Tuesday, October 11. Mailed applications must be postmarked by October 11, 2022, to qualify for the November General Election. Applications turned into the Elections Office, Driver License offices, or public libraries must also be submitted by the deadline at close of business day.

MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Has your signature changed? If your signature on your voter record and signature on your vote-by-mail ballot certificate envelope do not match, your vote-by-mail ballot may not count. Update your signature using a Florida voter registration application.

Drop your vote-by-mail ballot in a Secure Ballot Intake Station at any early voting location during the hours of voting. Your voted mail ballot must be received by the Supervisor of Elections Office no later than 7 PM on Election Day. If your vote-by-mail ballot is returned late, it will not count.

ON OUR WEBSITE www.votesjc.gov

- Register to vote
- Check your voter status
- Change your address before you vote
- Verify your polling place
- Track the mailing and receipt of your vote-by-mail ballot
- View and print your sample ballot

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

★ **Dates & Times: October 26 – November 5 • 8 AM – 6 PM Daily at all locations**
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Ponte Vedra Branch Library 101 Library Blvd Ponte Vedra Beach	Ponte Vedra Concert Hall 1050 A1A North Ponte Vedra Beach	Julington Creek Annex (St. Johns County Service Center) 725 Flora Branch Blvd St. Johns	SilverLeaf Amenity Center 218 Silver Forest Dr St. Augustine
Supervisor of Elections Office 4455 Avenue A, #101 St. Augustine	St. Augustine Beach City Hall 2200 A1A South St. Augustine	Southeast Branch Library 6670 US 1 South St. Augustine	Hastings Branch Library 6195 S. Main St Hastings

ELECTION DAY

- ★ **Tuesday, November 8, 2022**
- ★ **Polls are open 7 AM – 7 PM**
- ★ **When voting on Election Day, you MUST vote at the precinct of your legal residence**

KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO

To locate your polling place visit www.votesjc.gov or call the Elections Office at 904-823-2238.

ST. JOHNS Business Monthly

SCORE Jacksonville to host workshops

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

SCORE is a national service organization that supports small businesses nationwide. SCORE has a network of more than 11,000 volunteers operating in more than 340 local chapters around the country. The organization is supported by the US Small Business Administration (SBA).

In October, the following workshops are scheduled:

Achieve Your Business Dream, Oct. 4 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.: A four part series perfect for aspiring and emerging business owners. This series is taught by a team of experienced entrepreneurs

and business professionals, whose goal is to provide you with the knowledge and understanding needed to be a successful entrepreneur. By the end of the course, you should have what you need to build your own business plan and begin your journey to financial independence.

This workshop consists of:

Session 1: Business Foundations – What Will Your Business Be?

Session 2: Marketing Basics and Social Media

Session 3: Financial Basics, Business Naming and Market Analysis

Session 4: The Business Plan, Financial Projections and Funding

Events will be held each Tuesday in October 2022. Participants have the option to attend in person or via Zoom. Advanced registration is required. Certificates of Completion will be awarded at the end of each four-part series. Co-Sponsors are SCORE and Jacksonville Women's Business Center.

Email Marketing Best Practices, Oct. 25 7 p.m.: This event will help you avoid common mistakes and maximize your emails for powerful impact. Workshop presenter Ken Countess is Constant Contact's top trainer and an award-winning marketer, trainer, and

presenter as well as an internationally accredited expert in email and social media marketing. Attendees will learn:

- **Branding beyond the logo:** How placement, pictures, even colors can reinforce recognition and engagement
- **Readability:** Including fonts, white space and single-column design
- **Images:** Including sizing, placement, links and more
- **Shareability:** Are you going social with your email? Easy tips to encourage more cross-platform engagement.

Visit www.jacksonville.score.org for more information.

Hurricane season is here. SBA encourages these key tips to be prepared and aware of recovery funding programs

By Allen M. Thomas, Regional Administrator, US Small Business Administration

Hurricane season began June 1 and continues through Nov. 30. Businesses can be affected by weather catastrophes, from short-term power outages to rebuilding their physical structures after a hurricane.

How do you know if you are ready for a storm?

The first key question for storm preparation is to ask, am I document ready? Am I aware of what documents I need for insurance or recovery programs? Are my documents

safe, either in a digital form I can reach online or printed and stored in a weatherproof location? Are my documents up to date? To be considered for an SBA disaster loan, business owners need several legal documents in place at a minimum including deeds, leases, insurance records, trusts, court orders, and tax returns. Keep these documents readily available and in a digital format whenever possible.

Are your contacts up-to-date?

Additionally, ensure up-to-date contacts for the insurance company;

employees; customers; and suppliers. Maintain up-to-date key information on inventory; machine/equipment; financial systems; and accounts receivable/payable. Having this information available can be the difference between getting funded in a matter of days versus months.

SBA natural disaster recovery programs:

The SBA has programs to assist you with recovery after a natural disaster. These include programs that provide financing to repair physical damage to businesses and residences, working capital for normal business expenses, mitigation assistance, and shortages due to the military deployment of staff. Visit the SBA's Disaster Assistance webpage (www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance) for more information.

Business emergency response plan

Keeping a business operational is a key challenge after a hurricane. It is imperative in addition to gain-

ing knowledge; for all businesses to have a plan in place for when disaster strikes. Businesses should be either preparing or updating their business emergency response plans. If you have not done so, visit www.ready.gov as your starting point.

SBA local partners

While we are using a hurricane as an example here, other disasters related to wind, flood, wildfire, earthquake, and hail damage are also covered by SBA disaster assistance. The Small Business Development Center Network, SCORE, Women's Business Centers, and the Veterans Business Outreach Centers are local resource partners that often offer additional training and technical assistance related to disaster preparedness. Many district offices also host webinars or training sessions on the topic. Make sure to take advantage of these training opportunities whenever they are available.

Visit www.sba.gov for more information.

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Briefs

Mentors needed for St. Johns County schools

The St. Johns County School District is looking for volunteers who have a bit of time, a listening ear, and an encouraging word to help a student become successful in school and in life. Research shows that students who consistently meet with mentors have increased attendance, decreased disruptive behavior, and/or increased academic achievement. Mentors assist in a school setting and meet with a student approximately once per week.

Orientation for those interested in mentoring will take place on Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Fullerwood Center Auditorium, 10 Hildreth Drive, in St Augustine. Contact (904) 547- 3952 or email Cheryl_Freeman@stjohns.k12.fl.us if you are interested in taking part.

Nease High School athletes to benefit from scholarships

Nease High School alumnus, Class of 1986 and pro golfer, Len Mattiace, will be funding a \$3,000 sponsorship/scholarship for students attending the school. Annually, \$1,000 will be designated to go to a male and female athlete in addition to a \$1,000 going to the Golden Panther Booster Club.

Sponsorships along with student athlete scholarships are vital to the funding of high school sports and the future of athletes. St. Johns County does not allocate funds towards the district high school athletic program. It is up to the individual sports teams to fund raise in order to cover their specific needs. With the growing costs associated with providing athletes an elite environment, the teams fall short and sponsorship funds fill the gap.

Each sports program at Nease High School is part of the more broad Golden Panther Booster Club which has 501 C3 status so donations are also tax deductible.

Newcomers of North St. Johns welcomes Council on Aging director to October luncheon

Newcomers of North Saint Johns will hold its next luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at Blue Bamboo Canton Bistro, 10110 San Jose Blvd. in Mandarin. The event will feature a presentation by Executive Director Becky Yanni and Director of Development Tom Torretta from The Council on Aging St. Johns County about the many services and events the COA provides.

Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. The cost for the luncheon and program is \$35 for members and \$40 for guests. All reservations must be received by Oct. 7. Visit <https://newcomersof-northstjohns.org> for more information.

The Newcomers of North St. Johns offers a variety of activities for St. Johns County residents to get acquainted and have fun, including smaller lunch groups, wine socials, golf, Mah Jongg, holiday parties, day trips and cultural events.

Ponte Vedra Woman's Club supports Betty Griffin Center

The women from the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club will be helping at the Women's Care Peace At Home Pro-Am Golf Tournament at The Plantation in Ponte Vedra Beach benefitting the Betty Griffin Center. This event will start on Oct. 23 at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception, dinner and live auction. On Oct. 24, registration and a light breakfast will be at 8 a.m. with the tee-off and tournament at 10:15 a.m. The Tournament Reception will follow, from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. at The Plantation at 101 Plantation Drive in Ponte Vedra. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Betty Griffin Center.

Registration for this tournament is for 80 players and 20 professionals on a first come first serve basis. Contact Ron Whittington at ron@whittingtonpr.com for more information.

Jacksonville Historical Society CEO to speak at Coastal Friends Luncheon

Coastal Friends, formerly known as Newcomers Alumnae, will hold its next monthly luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 5 at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Pkwy. from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. This month's guest speaker will be Dr. Alan Bliss, CEO of Jacksonville Historical Society who will discuss Jacksonville's bicentennial.

The luncheon is open to all members of Coastal Friends, their guests and anyone interested in joining this ever-popular ladies social club, which has been in existence since 1998. For this occasion, Marsh Landing's chef will be preparing a house salad, pork medallions with a demi glaze served over rice with asparagus, and the chef's choice of dessert. The cost to attend the luncheon is \$25 and reservations must be made in advance to reserve a seat by contacting the luncheon chairman (bartshar@comcast.net) as soon as possible.

For details on how to join Coastal Friends, contact brookemeister@msn.com or visit coastalfriends.wildapricot.org for more information on the club.

Local family delivers food to more than 150 homes in St. Johns County

One year ago, a local couple, Debra and Bill Logeson, began volunteering for Care Connect+, a program of Flagler Health+, and in that time, they have delivered food to more than 150 homes. This milestone was recently celebrated with gas cards given to the Logeson family, donated by Jimmy Jam Community Outreach. With St. Johns county continuing to grow and the need for food increasing, Care Connect+ is looking for more food delivery drivers to join the Logeson family in their efforts.

"Through this food delivery service, I have learned so much about the community. With St. Johns County being the fastest growing county in Florida and all the tourists that come to the

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Briefs cont. from pg. 9

area, it’s hard to realize families are struggling,” said Bill Logeson. “You can throw a rock from any building in the area and hit a community that needs help.”

Care Connect+ started the food delivery program in early 2020 when they recognized the increased community need due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through volunteer drivers, like the Logeson family, and Epic-Cure, a group of volunteers dedicated to eliminating food waste and ending hunger, Care Connect+ was able to start screening individuals for their needs and determine if they were eligible to be put on a list for food delivery. The program has since continued to grow, meaning more delivery

drivers are needed.

The food delivery schedule is released every Monday, and then the food delivery is every Thursday. Volunteers will receive the list of addresses that morning, stop by Epic-Cure to pick up the bags of food, then deliver them to each home.

Visit CareConnectVolunteers.com or email Jennifer.Wills@FlaglerHealth.org to learn more about becoming a food delivery driver for Care Connect+.

United Way of St. Johns County announces new president

Mark D. LeMaire has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of St. Johns County, serving St. Johns and Putnam counties.

“I am pleased to announce the selection of Mark LeMaire as United Way-SJC CEO,” said Board Chair Joe Pickens. “Mark’s extensive nonprofit experience combined with his familiarity with both St. Johns and Putnam counties make him the ideal person to lead our organization. When you have a perfect fit, you don’t just think it, you feel it too. That was the unanimous sentiment of the search committee.”

Among many other achievements, while serving at United Way, LeMaire led the organization’s planned giving effort, secured new planned giving commitments, stewarded the organization’s annual community investments and volunteer center, built a neighborhood focused funding initiative, oversaw \$6M annual budget and developed and implemented an online grant application process.

LeMaire has a M.A. degree in Sociology from the University of South Florida, a B.A. degree from Southeastern University and over 20 years of nonprofit experience. He is a licensed foster parent for the State of Florida and a 2020 graduate of Leadership St. Johns.

LeMaire will replace former United Way-St. Johns County President/CEO, Melissa Nelson, who assumed the role of President/CEO for United Way of Florida in June 2022. Lemaire will join the organization on Oct. 3, 2022. A transition team has been put in place as well to ensure a smooth transition.

First Coast Opera opens 23rd season with Bon Appetit!

An operetta about Julia Child, with dinner and servings of chocolate cake? First Coast Opera announces its 23rd season of live opera in northeast Florida. Based in St. Augustine, the season will open with Bon Appetit! on Oct. 7 – 8 at Celebration Hall at St. Anastasia, 5205 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach.

The dinner-opera event will be catered by La Cocina International restaurant, featuring performances of Bizet’s comic Le Docteur Miracle and Lee Hoiby’s operatic depiction of Julia Child making a chocolate cake in Bon Appetit! The evening will include a special treat from Crème de la Cocoa. Performances will take place from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. each night.

Enhanced tickets with a VIP Reception are \$125, with champagne and meet the artists; general admission tickets are \$75; and student tickets are \$50. All tickets include the catered meal and performance. Tickets are available at firstcoastopera.com.

Local nonprofits call on community to help provide support for seniors

Baptist Medical Center Beaches and local beaches organizations are seeking volunteers to help provide much-needed services for senior residents. In the beaches area, individuals 65 and older are the fastest-growing population. To ensure senior residents have the support and resources they need, Baptist Beaches is teaming up with the Beaches Council on Aging, Beaches Emergency Assistance

Ministry, Hart Felt Ministries and ElderSource to recruit community members to help fill this gap.

These organizations share a commitment to the well-being of older residents and provide a range of services to support those in need:

- Beaches Council on Aging connects seniors to people, services and places to give older residents a sense of self sufficiency and security.
- Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) provides financial, food and case management assistance.
- Hart Felt Ministries enriches the lives of seniors, enabling them to age in place with dignity and grace.
- ElderSource helps adults 60+, persons with disabilities 18 and older, and their caregivers live and age with independence and dignity in their homes and communities.

Volunteer positions vary by organization but share a common goal of improving seniors’ quality of life:

- Supporting Baptist Beaches patients and visitors by serving as an official hospital volunteer
- Providing companionship via phone to isolated residents
- Delivering food to homebound seniors
- Assisting with home projects and repairs
- Researching critical resources

To learn more about available volunteer opportunities, visit: baptistjax.com/help4seniors.

Volunteers sought to help local taxpayers

AARP Foundation has kicked off volunteer recruitment for its Tax-Aide program, the nation’s largest volunteer-based tax preparation service. Volunteers may sign up to assist taxpayers either in person or virtually, with a number of roles available.

In addition to tax preparers, whom the program will train, Tax-Aide needs people who can provide technical and communications assistance, interpreters, and program leaders. Volunteers come from a variety of industries and range from retirees to university students. All levels and types of experience are welcome.

Tax-Aide offers free in-person and online tax preparation and assistance nationwide to taxpayers with low to moderate income. Because of the complexity of the U.S. tax code, many taxpayers overpay their taxes or turn to paid tax services they cannot afford. Some may forgo filing their taxes and miss out on the credits and deductions they’ve earned because they are unable to pay for assistance. Tax-Aide volunteers can help by providing necessary services in communities where there is the greatest need.

To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call 1-888-OUR AARP (1-888-687-2277). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in coordination with the IRS.



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Get to Know ...

By Tiffany Merlo Phelps
mail@floridanewsline.com

Riley Davis

Riley Davis makes it a point to open the door for someone every chance he gets at the Ponte Vedra YMCA. It may seem like a small gesture, but it is an act that almost always leads to a connection between Davis and members. It is a connection that he nurtures every day, looking for ways “to be a blessing” to someone else. Davis has been working at the YMCA for 15 years as a maintenance technician and drives an hour from North Jacksonville to get there. He said he is grateful for the job, grateful for the opportunity to meet new faces and possibly lift someone up along the way. Davis has spent his life trying to make connections with people and using his smile and sense of empathy to help people no matter what might be weighing on his mind. Davis works two other jobs in addition to his Y position and runs seven miles every other day (making it a point to drink a gallon of water on run days). “I feel a peace that comes over me when I run,” he said. Davis is the first to admit that he has a lot of energy, and people often guess that he is much younger than his



Photo courtesy Riley Davis
Riley Davis

age of 62. His best advice for mental peace and a healthy life: “Take your hands off it. It is not about us. Free your mind, so that God can be your increase and so that he can help everything bloom into a flower. Then, you will find calm.”

Q: What brought you to the Ponte Vedra YMCA?

A: I was working at the Palm Garden of Jacksonville Nursing Home when my former boss saw me working the floor. He brought me over to the PV YMCA in 2007. I never left. At

the time, I was working the morning shift at Palm Garden and then the 11 – 7 shift at Avante Nursing Home. I just love talking to people and reaching out and being a blessing.

Q: How did you meet your wife, Tiffany?

A: I met her at Avante where she was working as a Certified Nursing Assistant. She is the sweetest person that I have ever met, and she is a light to me. We have been together for 18 years. She had four girls when

I met her. I had to ask God if this was from Christ. Everything lined up with God. It was a package deal. I love spending time with China (30), Shanikqua (30), Latifah (32) and Jamila (25). I love my girls.

Q: What is your life philosophy?

A: I was taught by my mother to love everyone. I see people as a heart just like I see myself. That is why I am so happy and why I can see those with a struggling heart. I will often stop and pray with someone if they allow me to. God always directs me to be a witness for the people. I don't have another side. My spirit draws me to people. My prayer directs me to someone I can speak to and to help. There are broken hearts all around me. I love to encourage people daily, and I do not judge.

Q: You mentioned that you have always worked multiple jobs. What was your very first job?

A: I started working when I was 17 years old, cutting fish at a seafood place. There was an older gentleman there who taught me how to do it properly. I loved interacting with folks there too. I was also working at Memorial Hospital.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I love to cook for my family, especially grilling. I also love eating clean. I love to go fishing and to play with our two rescue dogs. I also enjoy attending a weekly Bible study, and I enjoy bringing items to local churches to help kids in need. I try to look out for the kids who don't have a lot of stuff and may not get an opportunity to have name brand items.

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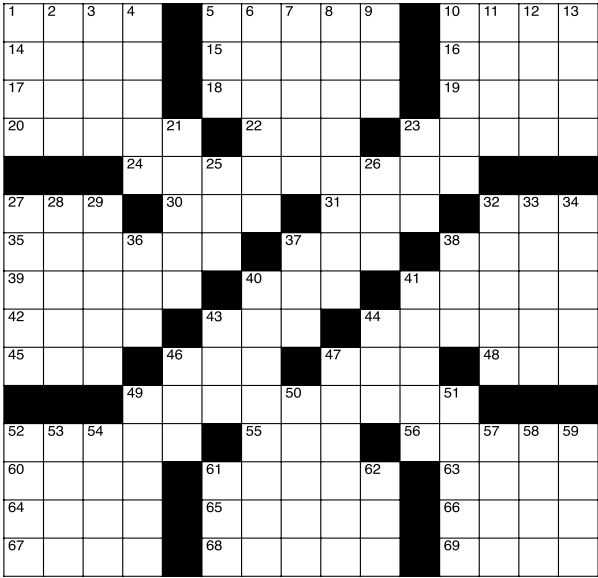
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Puzzles

Answers on page 3
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bay Area humorist
- 5. Hurt
- 10. Icelandic poems
- 14. A taro corm
- 15. Metaphorical use of a word
- 16. It fears the hammer
- 17. Excessively quaint (British)
- 18. Laid-back California county
- 19. Cook in a microwave oven
- 20. Not late
- 22. Go from one place to another
- 23. Peoples living in the Congo
- 24. Popular pasta
- 27. Available engine power (abbr.)
- 30. Popular musician Charles
- 31. Angry
- 32. Spelling is one type
- 35. One who makes a living
- 37. Indicates location
- 38. Imperial Chinese dynasty
- 39. Small water buffaloes
- 40. Hungarian city

- 41. Fabric
- 42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 43. Precursor to the EU
- 44. Philly footballers
- 45. Female sibling
- 46. “When Harry Met Sally” actress
- 47. Magnetic tape of high quality
- 48. Insecticide
- 49. Apparatus to record and transmit
- 52. Some is considered “dog”
- 55. Israeli city ___ Aviv
- 56. Fencing sword
- 60. Ottoman military title
- 61. Wise people
- 63. Cold wind
- 64. Popular type of shoe
- 65. Administrative district
- 66. A way to reveal
- 67. Cooked meat cut into small pieces
- 68. Actress Zellweger
- 69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Small town in Portugal
- 2. Site of famed Ethiopian battle
- 3. German river
- 4. Christmas carols
- 5. Cash machine
- 6. Rough and uneven
- 7. Rumanian round dance
- 8. Widespread occurrence of disease
- 9. A place to relax
- 10. Feeling of listlessness
- 11. Coat or smear a substance
- 12. Wild mango
- 13. Brews
- 21. Belgian city
- 23. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 25. Swiss river
- 26. Small amount
- 27. Part of buildings
- 28. Vietnamese capital
- 29. Sailboats
- 32. Shelter
- 33. Terminated
- 34. Discharge
- 36. Snag
- 37. Partner to cheese
- 38. A container for coffee
- 40. Spend time dully
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Snakelike fish
- 44. Consume
- 46. Type of student
- 47. Erase
- 49. Instruct
- 50. Girl's given name
- 51. Jewish spiritual leader
- 52. “To ___ his own”
- 53. North-central Indian city
- 54. Greek alphabet characters
- 57. Weapon
- 58. Amounts of time
- 59. American Nobel physicist vital to MRLs
- 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 62. Witness

BAKING TREATS WORD SEARCH

K D F I E D A U O S A I W V I E A H W V
R V W C S W B B F B D P G C D C A X B E W
K B I G P P X O V P T M C X O I G W U A
V O I O G S D R W U O O H K S O B A T O
T D B N S S I P A N N K B E F A P W A L
T E E N G T O V D F O L K G N T C B R O
W W E T S R K V E E G E F T A G D E C
R L R W F I E C E S S M H I O N N P P E
B H E B S I T D T N U S U R I A W K M U
X V N V X I S X I T G G E K I A V M E I
V V E W O L S T A E L B A R X S D E T H
K M V N B M R A P N B S R T P E V U C
G N A C B U C I D S L T O P E R O R P K
P K E P W T K U P A T R S P P I H W M I
F L L N S T T S R I H E M I X E R N C U
T D E E D E G D C F B O I L R G S I F U
G M X S C R R F N C O O K I E S N K A W
C A K E N N S H F W L H I P K G C K S P
P F I B T W V O T S E T R T V F W S V N

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- BAKING
- BROWN
- BUTTER
- CAKE
- CONFECTION
- COOKIES
- DESSERT
- EGGS
- ICING
- INGREDIENTS
- LEAVENER
- MIXER
- OIL
- OVEN
- RISE
- SHEET
- SIFTED
- STIR
- SUGAR
- SWEET
- TASTE
- TEMPERATURE
- TEST
- WHIP



Solve the code to discover words related to baking and decorating
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 6 = E)

- A. 1 21 16 6
Clue: Confection
- B. 24 22 12 10 21 12 3
Clue: Sugary cake topping
- C. 20 18 24 3
Clue: Separate flour
- D. 1 9 6 21 3 6
Clue: Make something



PopHistory

By Scott A. Grant
mail@floridanewsline.com

The Law Day Speech and how it turned Jimmy Carter into a president with help from Hunter S. Thompson

On Saturday, May 4, 1974, Jimmy Carter took the podium to address the distinguished alumni of the University of Georgia School of Law. Carter was governor of Georgia at the time. In addition to the alumni there were various guests and media and Ted Kennedy. Carter began his speech by joking about the fact that tickets to Kennedy’s speech cost more than tickets to his own.

Carter then proceeded to rip apart a system of justice practiced in Georgia and other parts of the country that favored the rich and prominent at the expense of the poor and indigent. He talked about the system being designed to uphold the status quo. In front of these rich and powerful people, Carter decried his belief that the powerful and influential had “carved out for themselves ... a privileged position in society.” Today, many might find those words ring truer than they did in 1974.

Jimmy Carter then told a room full of lawyers and judges that there were

substantial inequities in the criminal justice system of Georgia. He told a story about a prisoner who cooked for him in the governor’s mansion who had been sentenced to pay a fine of \$750 or serve seven years in prison. He talked about drug crimes and a recent bill that had decriminalized drunkenness in the state. He suggested that half of the people in the Georgia prison system did not belong there. That they were there because they were poor. “I don’t know,” he drawled, “it may be that poor people are the only ones who commit crimes. I don’t think so. But they’re the only ones that serve prison sentences.”

He also talked about an earlier time when Blacks were denied the vote based on a 30-question test that was administered with a “smirk.” Questions, he said, that no one in that room of distinguished law school alumni could answer. He added that no one would want to go back to those days. That statement must have hung heavy on the assembled.

Certainly, there were some, if not many, in the room who would be eager to return to that time. Carter had succeeded Lester Maddox as governor. Lester Maddox was the current lieutenant governor of the state. Maddox had risen to prominence for violently refusing to serve African Americans in his Atlanta restaurant.

Carter challenged the group with finding ways to improve a system that was substantively unfair, a system they had helped to perpetuate. He ended by reminding us all “that the course of human events, even the greatest historical events, are controlled by the combined wisdom and courage and commitment and discernment and unselfishness and compassion and love and idealism of the common ordinary people.” The distinguished alumni sat there in stunned silence.

The speech might have been forgotten and dismissed as the ravings of a peanut farmer. Carter himself might have been relegated to the waste

basket of history. Except for the fact that there was a reporter in the room from Rolling Stone magazine. His name was Hunter S. Thompson. Thompson, the inventor of Gonzo journalism, was following Kennedy and had no intention of listening to Carter or reporting what he had to say. But, when the governor quoted Bob Dylan, he put down his Wild Turkey and took out his tape recorder.

Hunter called the speech a “king hell bastard of a speech that rang every bell in the room” and described Carter as “ruthless.” Thompson wrote an article endorsing Carter for Rolling Stone called “Jimmy Carter and the Great Leap of Faith.” That article and the support of musicians like the Allman Brothers, from Jacksonville, galvanized disgruntled voters and propelled Jimmy Carter into the White House 18 months later.

Scott A. Grant is a local author and pop historian. He welcomes your comments at scottg@standfastic.com.

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The
Pantry
Raiders

Flavor, versatility and health benefits are some reasons to enjoy oatmeal, especially when preparing baked goods like cookies. Enjoy “Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies” from “Live Well, Bake Cookies” (Rock Point) by Danielle Rye.

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies

Makes 24

- 1 cup all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- ½ tsp. ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1 ½ cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
- ½ cup packed light brown sugar
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- ⅓ cup pumpkin puree, squeeze out the excess moisture with paper towels
- 1 large egg yolk, at room temperature
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats and set aside.
2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, pumpkin pie spice, ground cinnamon, baking soda, and salt until well combined. Stir in the old-fashioned rolled oats and set aside.
3. In a large mixing bowl, beat the butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar together for 1 to 2 minutes, or until well

Classic cookies get
a fall makeover

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewsline.com

combined.

4. Mix in the pumpkin puree, egg yolk, and vanilla extract until fully combined.
5. Mix in the dry ingredients until just combined, then mix in the chocolate chips on low speed until fully incorporated.
6. Using a 1 ½ tablespoon cookie scoop, scoop the cookie dough onto the prepared baking sheets, making sure to leave a little room between each one. Gently press each ball of cookie dough down to slightly flatten it.
7. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes, or until the tops of the cookies are set. Remove from the oven, and allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheets for 5 to 10 minutes; then carefully transfer the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely. Store the cookies in an airtight container for up to five days.



Nutrition
Check

Allergy Friendly Spooky
Treats for Halloween

By Kristen Hicks-Roof PhD, RD and Rayonna Hills BS

Halloween is a day full of surprises, laughter, and treats, no matter if you are at home, at the office or at school. This is a holiday celebrated by many across the United States, a day that allows for children (and adults) to be whomever they desire for one special day. Trick or treating can be traced back to the early 20th century. In fact, Walt Disney first introduced an animated short film in 1952 starring Donald Duck that was based on Halloween fun.

While the concept of Halloween is all about tricks, treats, and disguises, that doesn't mean the same concept should go for treats and sweets consumed. Research indicates that 1 in 13 children have food allergies, which is estimated to be around 5.6 million children in the United States. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) In addition, there have been recent claims of unsafe treats, leading to many parents inspecting the foods their children receive.

As the holiday approaches around the corner, it is the perfect time to start to think about what Halloween goodies you want to hand out in your cauldron, at your children's school, or at the workplace. The best way to ensure you are providing the safest options for

the trick-or-treaters and office peers is to be sure that candy or treats do not contain any of the seven major allergens:

- Peanut butter
- Seeds
- Milk
- Eggs
- Wheat
- Soy

Instead, think about offering treats and goodies that are allergen-friendly for all to enjoy, some suggestions may include:

- Clementines or juice boxes
- Glow bracelets and/or necklaces
- Stamps and stickers
- Bouncy balls or temporary tattoos
- Allergy friendly candies (e.g., Swedish fish, starburst, dots, skittles)
- Fruit snacks

Regardless if your child or coworkers have known food allergies or not, it is still best to check and/or label all the goodies prior to consumption to ensure food safety.

Kristen Hicks-Roof PhD, RDN, LDN, CLC, FAND is an assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Brooks College of Health, University of North Florida.

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Q&A with Kelly Barrera cont. from pg. 6

ing families to community resources” and 14 agencies across St. Johns County will be featured. Contact Avery Greene, ESE Program Specialist at (904) 547-7557 if you would like to participate.

Finally, I’d like to congratulate the following students who were selected as National Merit Semifinalists. From Allen D. Nease High School: Evian Berg, Christy Shao, Sofia Pantano, Tabitha Gottipati, Anika Kapil, Daniel Evans, Parker Stam-schorr, Ricky Zhang, Rohit Siddi, Aryaman Bansal, Logan Diachun,

Miles Moerman, Abhinav Sriram, Mihir Kumar, Rich Nguyen, Nag Puli, Ethan Bhula and Calkin Garg. From Ponte Vedra High School: Justin Bonn, Michael Bradshaw, Adam Chaker, John Chigounis, John Deutch, Emily Dorairaj, Ian Dowling, Nicolo Fasanelli, Archie Jenkins, Megan Landis, Mackenzie Leverock, Andrew Liu, Mary Reynolds, Chloe Simon, Lucille Sinavsky and Benjamin Wainer.

Q: How can our readers contact you?
A: They can email me at kelly.barrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us or call me at (904) 547-7510.F

Adopt a dolphin to support UNF’s Dolphin Research Program

By NewsLine Staff
mail@floridanewslines.com

The University of North Florida’s Dolphin Research Program provides critical information on the population of bottlenose dolphins inhabiting Jacksonville’s estuarine waters. Over the past 10 years, Dr. Quincy Gibson, associate professor of biology, and student researchers have identified and conducted studies on the behavioral ecology of over 500 individual dolphins in the St. Johns River, approximately half of which are year-round residents.

To help support the program and its research, the Dolphin Research Pro-

gram offers the unique opportunity to symbolically “adopt” a local dolphin that has been identified during marine mammal research. All donations will support UNF’s important research and conservation work while helping to build a better future for these magnificent creatures.

The “Basic” adoption donation is \$40 and the special “Name Your Dolphin” adoption donation is \$80. All donations are tax-deductible and proceeds go directly to UNF’s Dolphin Research Program. To adopt a dolphin and support UNF research, contact Dr. Quincy Gibson at quincy.gibson@unf.edu.

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Travel

Visits to Literary Landmarks

By Debi Lander
mail@floridanewsline.com

Avid readers often become curious about their favorite authors and may enjoy a visit to the author's home or sites from a novel. Here are a few worth considering.

Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum in Key West

Legendary writer Ernest Hemingway lived an adventurous life in Florida and Cuba during 1931 – 1939. Visit his restored Spanish Colonial-style house in Key West, including his writing studio and swimming pool — the first in-ground pool in the Keys. Guided tours inform visitors about Hemingway's writing and lifestyle, his six-toed cats, and the pet cemetery. Add a visit to Sloppy Joe's Bar in downtown Key West, a favorite of Hemingway and as colorful as the author.

Savannah: Flannery O'Connor's Childhood Home and Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil

Flannery O' Connor grew up in her family home near St. John the Baptist Cathedral in historic Savannah. Each

room of her former house has been restored to the Depression era, presenting insights into the childhood of one of America's greatest short story writers. She later moved to Andalusia, a family farm near Eatonton, Georgia, when diagnosed with Lupus. You can tour this farmhouse, where she lived until she died in 1964.

In Savannah, fans of John Berendt's bestseller "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" relish seeing the sites from the non-fiction story of a mysterious murder and trial. The sultry city becomes as much a character in his tale as the other memorable personalities. Don't miss touring the Mercer Williams House, filled with notable antiques, and walking among the Spanish moss-laden live oaks and funeral statuary in Bonaventure Cemetery.

Carl Sandburg's Home: Connemara Farms in Flat Rock, NC

Carl Sandburg, known as the "Poet of the People," lived from 1878 – 1967. Sandberg authored a variety of books,



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Key West: Hemingway Office.

including a biography of Lincoln, children's books, and poetry. He won three Pulitzer Prizes. His country house sits on 270 acres in western North Carolina, now a National Historic Site. You must hike to the hilltop house, but it's a fascinating place that feels like he and his wife lived there yesterday. His office overflows with paperwork, books, artwork, and personal artifacts. The upstairs bedrooms and displayed clothing take you back to the 1950s. Sandburg's wife raised prize-winning goats, and visitors, especially children, adore seeing the descendants of her dairy goat herd near the barn.

William Faulkner's Home: Rowan Oak in Mississippi

William Faulkner, a prolific author, and Nobel Prize winner, hailed from Oxford, Mississippi. His beloved home, Rowan Oak, offers visitors a peek into his private life. The large columned Greek Revival house rests at the end of a tree-lined path. One wall in his office includes a penciled outline of a novel, like a storyboard, and his typewriter. You can follow Oxford's Faulkner Trail

to visit other sites in the city dubbed "the Cultural Mecca of the South."

Zora Neale Hurston's Home in Florida

Fort Pierce, Florida, near Port St. Lucie on the eastern coast, showcases the two-bedroom house of Zora Neale Hurston, playwright, and anthropologist best known for her novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God." Follow the Dust Tracks Heritage Trail to learn more about this African American storyteller and her achievements.

Other literary landmarks in the South include the Marjorie K. Rawlings homestead nestled amongst citrus groves in Cross Creek State Park, Florida. The Thomas Wolfe Home and Visitor Center is in Asheville, NC, and Margaret Mitchell's house, author of "Gone with the Wind," is in Atlanta. My list could go on, but I'd love to hear of readers' visits to literary attractions.

Visit www.bylandersea.com to read more of local travel writer Debi Lander's stories and travel tips.



Photos courtesy Debi Lander
Savannah: Bonaventure Cemetery.



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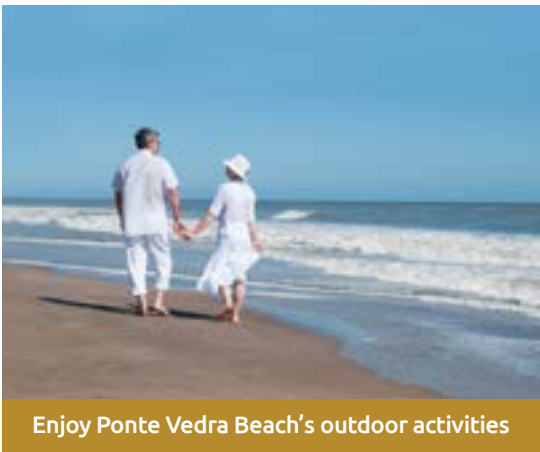


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